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00862.022324.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Direct Application of: )  
: Examiner: Dennis W. Ruhl  
KENICHI SAKUMA, et al. )  
: Group Art Unit: 3629  
Application No.: 09/921,569 )  
: Filed: August 6, 2001 )  
: For: EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT )  
: SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT )  
: MANAGEMENT APPARATUS, )  
: CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR, )  
: AND COMPUTER-READABLE )  
: MEMORY : July 10, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of documents (1) to (3) are enclosed.

- (1) JP 2001-338088
- (2) JP 2002-041690
- (3) "Daiichi-Denkasha Co., LTD., Household appliance repair on a nationwide scale-Yamato Transport Co., Ltd., to carry out collection and delivery", Nikkei Marketing Journal, Nikkei Inc., December 4, 1997, p.7


Documents (1) to (3) were cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action, which is dated April 13, 2007, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

An English-language translation accompanies document (3), and English-language abstracts accompany each of documents (1) and (2). The concise explanation of relevance for each of the non-English language documents (1) to (3) is believed to be satisfied by the English-language translation and the English language abstracts. See MPEP § 609.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicants with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to  
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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John D. Magluyan  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No.: 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>00862.022324.</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>09/921,569</b>			
		APPLICANT <b>KENICHI SAKUMA, et al.</b>					
		FILING DATE <b>August 6, 2001</b>		GROUP <b>3629</b>			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		2001-338088	12/2001	Japan			Abstract
		2002-041690	02/2002	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		<b>"Daiichi-Denkasha Co., LTD., Household appliance repair on a nationwide scale-Yamato Transport Co., Ltd., to carry out collection and delivery", Nikkei Marketing Journal, Nikkei Inc., December 4, 1997, p.7 (w/ English-language translation)</b>					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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